[31st October 1931

A.—(*a*) The following arrangements are in force:—

The forest subordinates apply to the headman or patel of the village and the latter arranges the requisite labour. During the time of harvest the patel raises a party at the rate of one for each kamatham (a group of two or three families formed for the purposes of cultivation). The wages of all the labourers from a village were being paid to the patel until last year. But as this system of paying wages to the patels did not work satisfactorily, the system of paying each individual is being introduced in some places as an experimental measure. In apportioning the work among the several villages, care is taken not to indent on a single village for too much labour.

(*b*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(*c*) Generally the labourers are paid on the quantity or outturn basis. But in a few cases daily wages are paid at the rate of four annas per male and three annas per female.

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—" In view of the fact that the wild tribes in these districts are asked to do forced labour and they are not often paid any wages at all, will Government be pleased to make an enquiry considering the desirability of stopping this forced labour?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" There is no forced labour."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—" Have the Government made enquiries?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" The Government are aware that there is no such thing as forced labour."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" With reference to the answer to clause (*a*), are we to take it that the system of paying for compulsory labour is going to be introduced throughout this Presidency?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" We are not here concerned with the Presidency as a whole but with the particular forest area."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" I am asking whether a similar system will be adopted in other parts of the Presidency?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" That has nothing to do with the present question."

Alleged exaction of forced labour from the aborigines by the forest officials of Nugur and Bhadrachalam taluks.

* 429 *Q.*—Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is not a fact that the forest officials in Nugur and Bhadrachalam taluks of Godavari Agency exact forced labour from the aborigines at a low wage of annas 8 per week; and

31st October 1931]

(b) whether the Government are taking any steps to put an end to this system?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Prisons

Alleged grievances of Mr. S. Srihari Rao in Vizagapatam jail.

* 430 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Mr. S. Srihari Rao who is now in Vizagapatam jail was treated as a special class prisoner before he was transferred to Vizagapatam and whether after he was transferred, the same treatment has been withdrawn and he is treated as an ordinary criminal; if so, why so;

(*b*) whether he is placed or was placed in a cell in solitary confinement in Vizagapatam jail; if so, why; and

(*c*) whether he has been on hunger-strike; if so, for how many days; and what is his condition; and whether the Government have investigated into the grievances which had to his hunger-strike; and what is its result, if any?

A.—(*a*) The prisoner has been throughout treated as an ordinary C class prisoner.

(*b*) The prisoner was locked up in the day time in a separate block outside the quarantine in order to prevent other prisoners being instigated by him to disobey orders.

(*c*) He was on hunger-strike for 66 days and his present general condition is reported to be good. The grievances which led to the hunger-strike were enquired into and the Government are satisfied that the prisoner is not entitled under the rules to the concessions claimed by him.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I know, Sir, the actual necessity which led the Government to keep this prisoner in a separate block? The answer given is, ' in order to prevent other prisoners being instigated by him to disobey orders.' I want to know whether there was any such case due to which he is kept in a separate block."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" Yes."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" What was the case?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" Because it was found actually that he was instigating others to disobey orders."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" What is it that he did?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" What he did was that he was instigating other prisoners to disobey orders."